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EXAMINER	
RENNER, CRAIG A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2627	

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/728,133	OSTWALD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Craig A. Renner	2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 July 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *9-16* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-8 and 17-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *04 December 2003* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *04 December 2003*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of "group I comprising claims 1-8 and 17-28" in the reply filed on 20 July 2006 is acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 9-16 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to one or more non-elected inventions/species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include one or more reference signs not mentioned in the description. Note, for instance, "110" (shown in FIG. 11, for instance) and "120" (shown in FIG. 12, for instance).

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) and/or an amendment to the specification in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of

any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In line 3 in each of claims 7 and 8, "the rack sides" are indefinite because they lack clear and/or positive antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 19, 22, 23, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moy et al. (US 6,864,511).

With respect to claim 1, Moy teaches a rack-mounted storage library comprising a rack (113) having an interior and a length; a media element handling assembly (includes 146 and 148, for instance); a first panel segment (360, for instance) having an inner surface, the first panel segment being mounted to a first side of the rack at a first rack length position such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in Figs. 3 and 17-20, for instance); and a first set of media element housing cells (each 132) supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment such that the first set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position (as shown in Fig. 18, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first rack length position in order to manipulate media elements held by the first set of media element housing cells (as shown in Figs. 3-4, for instance).

With respect to claim 19, Moy teaches a storage library panel assembly comprising a first panel segment (360, for instance) having an inner surface; and a first set of media element housing cells (each 132) supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment (as shown in Figs. 3 and 17-20, for instance). With respect to the intended use limitations appearing in claim 19, note that a recitation with respect to the

manner in which a claimed apparatus (i.e., "panel assembly") is intended to be employed (i.e., "for a rack-mounted storage library provided with a rack and a media element handling assembly" and "being mountable to a side of the rack such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior when the first panel segment is mounted to the side of the rack", for instance) does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations, *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (PTO BPAI 1987).

With respect to claims 22 and 23, Moy teaches a rack-mounted storage library comprising a rack (113) having an interior and a length, the rack having a door (360, for instance) being operable for opening to expose the rack interior along a first side of the rack and being operable for closing to have an inner surface of the door face the rack interior along the first side of the rack (as shown in Figs. 3 and 17-20, for instance); a media element handling assembly (includes 146 and 148, for instance); and a first set of media element housing cells (i.e., a first set of elements 132) supported on the inner surface of the door at a first rack length position such that the first set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position when the door is closed (as shown in Figs. 3 and 17-20, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first rack length position in order to manipulate media elements held by the first set of media element housing cells (as shown in Figs. 3-4, for instance) [as per claim 22]; wherein the library further comprises a second set of media element housing cells (i.e., a second set of elements 132) supported on the inner surface of the door at a second rack length

position such that the second set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the second rack length position when the door is closed (as shown in Figs. 3 and 17-20, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first and second rack length positions in order to manipulate media elements held by the first and second sets of media element housing cells (as shown in Figs. 3-4, for instance) [as per claim 23].

With respect to claim 28, Moy teaches a rack-mounted storage library comprising a rack (113) having an interior and a length, the rack having a cover sheet (360, for instance) being operable for hanging over the rack (i.e., dependent upon viewer perspective) to have an inner surface of the cover sheet face the rack interior along a first side of the rack (as shown in Figs. 3 and 17-20, for instance); a media element handling assembly (includes 146 and 148, for instance); and a set of media element housing cells (each 132) supported on the inner surface of the cover sheet at a first rack length position such that the set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position when the cover sheet is hung over the rack (as shown in Figs. 3 and 17-20, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first rack length position in order to manipulate media elements held by the media element housing cells (as shown in Figs. 3-4, for instance).

8. Claims 1, 2, 7, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cahlander et al. (US 5,206,814).

With respect to claims 1, 2 and 7, Cahlander teaches a rack-mounted storage library (1) comprising a rack (23) having an interior and a length; a media element handling assembly (6); a first panel segment (2) having an inner surface, the first panel segment being mounted to a first side of the rack (albeit indirectly) at a first rack length position such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance); and a first set of media element housing cells (between each 15) supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment such that the first set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position (as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first rack length position in order to manipulate media elements held by the first set of media element housing cells (as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, for instance) [as per claim 1]; wherein the library further comprises a second panel segment (another 2) having an inner surface, the second panel segment being mounted to a second side of the rack (albeit indirectly) at the first rack length position such that the inner surface of the second panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance); and a second set of media element housing cells (between each 15) supported on the inner surface of the second panel segment such that the second set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position (as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first rack length position in order to manipulate media elements held by the first and second sets of media element housing cells (as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, for instance)

[as per claim 2]; and wherein the library further comprises a second panel segment (another 2) having an inner surface, the second panel segment being mounted to any one of the rack sides (albeit indirectly) at a second rack length position such that the inner surface of the second panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance); and a second set of media element housing cells (between each 15) supported on the inner surface of the second panel segment such that the second set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the second rack length position (as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first and second rack length positions in order to manipulate media elements held by the first and second sets of media element housing cells (as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, for instance) [as per claim 7].

With respect to claims 19 and 20, Cahlander teaches a storage library panel assembly comprising a first panel segment (2) having an inner surface; and a first set of media element housing cells (between each 15) supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment (as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, for instance) [as per claim 19]; wherein the panel assembly further comprises a second panel segment (another 2) having an inner surface; and a second set of media element housing cells (between each 15) supported on the inner surface of the second panel segment (as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, for instance); wherein the first and second panel segments are connected together (as shown in FIGS. 1-3, for instance) [as per claim 20]. With respect to the intended use limitations appearing throughout claims 19-20, note that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus (i.e., "panel assembly") is intended to be

employed (i.e., "for a rack-mounted storage library provided with a rack and a media element handling assembly" and "being mountable to a side of the rack such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior when the first panel segment is mounted to the side of the rack", for instance) does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. See *Ex parte Masham*, supra.

9. Claims 1, 6, 8, 17-19, 21, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown (US 6,120,230).

With respect to claims 1, 6 and 8, Brown teaches a rack-mounted storage library (200) comprising a rack having an interior and a length; a media element handling assembly (includes 100, for instance); a first panel segment (adjacent 210) having an inner surface, the first panel segment being mounted to a first side of the rack at a first rack length position such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); and a first set of media element housing cells (210) supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment such that the first set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first rack length position in order to manipulate media elements held by the first set of media element housing cells (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance) [as per claim 1]; wherein a media element player (220) supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment such that the media element

player faces the rack interior at the first rack length position (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first rack length position in order to load media element held by the first set of media element housing cells into the media element player (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance) [as per claim 6]; and wherein the library further comprises a second panel segment (adjacent 220) having an inner surface, the second panel segment being mounted to any one of the rack sides at a second rack length position such that the inner surface of the second panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); and a media element player (220) supported on the inner surface of the second panel segment such that the media element player faces the rack interior at the second rack length position (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first and second rack length positions in order to load media elements held by the first set of media element housing cells into the media element player (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance) [as per claim 8].

With respect to claims 17 and 18, Brown teaches a rack-mounted storage library (200) comprising a rack having a vertically upright, rectangular form formed by top and bottom rack portions and four legs extending therebetween (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance), the legs being placed at respective corners of the top and bottom rack portions, the legs forming a rectangular interior within the rack bounded by four rack sides (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); a media element handling assembly (includes 100, for instance) movably connected to the rack for moving through the rack interior

(as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); a first panel segment (adjacent 210) having an inner surface, the first panel segment being mounted to one side of the rack at a first rack length position such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance), the first panel segment being void of hardware for moving the media element handling assembly (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); and a first set of media element housing cells (210) supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment such that the first set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly moves through the rack interior to move to the first rack length position in order to manipulate media elements held by the first set of media element housing cells (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance) [as per claim 17]; wherein the library further comprises a second panel segment (adjacent 220) having an inner surface, the second panel segment being mounted to any one of the rack sides at a second rack length position such that the inner surface of the second panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance), the second panel segment being void of hardware for moving the media element handling assembly (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); and a media element player (220) supported on the inner surface of the second panel segment such that the media element player faces the rack interior at the second rack length position (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly moves through the rack interior to move to the first and second rack length positions in order to load media elements held by the first set of

media element housing cells into the media element player (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance) [as per claim 18].

With respect to claims 19 and 21, Brown teaches a storage library panel assembly comprising a first panel segment (adjacent 210) having an inner surface; and a first set of media element housing cells (210) supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance) [as per claim 19]; wherein the panel assembly further comprises a second panel segment (adjacent 220) having an inner surface; and a media element player (220) supported on the inner surface of the second panel segment (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); wherein the first and second panel segments are connected together (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance) [as per claim 21]. With respect to the intended use limitations appearing throughout claims 19 and 21, note that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus (i.e., "panel assembly") is intended to be employed (i.e., "for a rack-mounted storage library provided with a rack and a media element handling assembly" and "being mountable to a side of the rack such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior when the first panel segment is mounted to the side of the rack", for instance) does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. See *Ex parte Masham*, supra.

With respect to claim 28, Brown teaches a rack-mounted storage library (200) comprising a rack having an interior and a length (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance), the rack having a cover sheet (adjacent 210) being operable for hanging over the rack to have an inner surface of the cover sheet face the rack interior along a first side of the

rack (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); a media element handling assembly (includes 100, for instance); and a set of media element housing cells (210) supported on the inner surface of the cover sheet at a first rack length position such that the set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position when the cover sheet is hung over the rack (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first rack length position in order to manipulate media elements held by the media element housing cells (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

12. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy et al. (US 4,864,511).

Moy teaches the library as detailed in paragraph 7, supra. Moy, however, remains silent as to the library further comprising "a media element player supported on the inner surface of the door at a third rack length position".

Official notice is taken of the fact that it is notoriously old and well known in the library art to have a media element player supported on an inner surface of a door at a rack length position in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of a enabling easier media element player accessibility. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have had the library of Moy further comprise a media element player supported on the inner surface of the door at a third rack length position. The rationale is as follows:

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have had the library of Moy further comprise a media element player supported on the inner surface of the door at a third rack length position since such enables easier media element player accessibility.

13. Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy et al. (US 4,864,511) in view of Cahlander et al. (US 5,206,814).

Moy teaches the library as detailed in paragraph 7, supra. Moy, however, remains silent as to the library further comprising "a first panel segment having an inner surface, the first panel segment being mounted to the first side of the rack at a second

rack length position such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior; and a second set of media element housing cells supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment such that the second set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the second rack length position" and "a second panel segment having an inner surface, the second panel segment being mounted to a second side of the rack at the first rack length position such that the inner surface of the second panel segment faces the rack interior; and a third set of media element housing cells supported on the inner surface of the second panel segment such that the third set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position".

Cahlander teaches a library further comprising a first panel segment (2) having an inner surface, the first panel segment being mounted to the first side of a rack (albeit indirectly) at a second rack length position such that an inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance); and a second set of media element housing cells (between each 15) supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment such that the second set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the second rack length position (as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, for instance) and a second panel segment (another 2) having an inner surface, the second panel segment being mounted to a second side of the rack (albeit indirectly) at a first rack length position such that the inner surface of the second panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance); and a third set of media element housing cells (between each 15) supported on the inner surface of the second panel segment such that the third set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack

length position (as shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, for instance) in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of enabling panel segment replaceability. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have had the library of Moy further comprise a first panel segment having an inner surface, the first panel segment being mounted to the first side of the rack at a second rack length position such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior; and a second set of media element housing cells supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment such that the second set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the second rack length position, and a second panel segment having an inner surface, the second panel segment being mounted to a second side of the rack at the first rack length position such that the inner surface of the second panel segment faces the rack interior; and a third set of media element housing cells supported on the inner surface of the second panel segment such that the third set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position, as taught by Cahlander. The rationale is as follows:

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have had the library of Moy further comprise a first panel segment having an inner surface, the first panel segment being mounted to the first side of the rack at a second rack length position such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior; and a second set of media element housing cells supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment such that the second set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the second rack length position, and a second panel segment having an inner

surface, the second panel segment being mounted to a second side of the rack at the first rack length position such that the inner surface of the second panel segment faces the rack interior; and a third set of media element housing cells supported on the inner surface of the second panel segment such that the third set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position, as taught by Cahlander since such enables panel segment replaceability.

14. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy et al. (US 4,864,511) in view of Cahlander et al. (US 5,206,814) as applied to claims 25 and 26 above, and further in view of Brown (US 6,120,230).

Moy in view of Cahlander teaches/suggests the library as detailed in paragraph 13, supra. Moy, however, further remains silent as to the library further comprising "a third panel segment having an inner surface, the third panel segment being mounted to a third side of the rack at the first rack length position such that the inner surface of the third panel segment faces the rack interior; and a media element player supported on the inner surface of the third panel segment such that the media element player faces the rack interior at the first rack length position".

Brown teaches a library (200) further comprising a panel segment (adjacent 220) having an inner surface, the panel segment being mounted to a side of a rack at a first rack length position such that the inner surface of the panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance); and a media element player (220) supported on the inner surface of the panel segment such that the media element player faces the

rack interior at the first rack length position (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance) in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of enabling easier media element player accessibility/replaceability. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have had the library of Moy further comprise a third panel segment having an inner surface, the third panel segment being mounted to a third side of the rack at the first rack length position such that the inner surface of the third panel segment faces the rack interior; and a media element player supported on the inner surface of the third panel segment such that the media element player faces the rack interior at the first rack length position as taught/suggested by Brown. The rationale is as follows:

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have had the library of Moy further comprise a third panel segment having an inner surface, the third panel segment being mounted to a third side of the rack at the first rack length position such that the inner surface of the third panel segment faces the rack interior; and a media element player supported on the inner surface of the third panel segment such that the media element player faces the rack interior at the first rack length position as taught/suggested by Brown since such enables easier media element player accessibility/replaceability.

15. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cahlander et al. (US 5,206,814) in view of Brown (US 6,120,230).

Cahlander teaches the library as detailed in paragraph 8, supra, wherein the library further comprises a third panel segment (another 2) having an inner surface, the third panel segment being mounted to a third side of the rack (albeit indirectly) at the first rack length position such that the inner surface of the third panel segment faces the rack interior (as shown in FIG. 1, for instance); wherein the first, second, and third panel segments are mounted to the respective rack sides independent of one another (as shown in FIGS. 1-3, for instance); and wherein the first, second, and third panel segments are connected together independent of the mounting with the respective rack sides (as shown in FIGS. 1-3, for instance). Cahlander, however, remains silent as to the library further comprising "a media element player supported on the inner surface of the third panel segment such that the media element player faces the rack interior at the first rack length position".

Brown teaches a library (200) further comprising a media element player (220) supported on an inner surface of a panel segment (adjacent 220) such that the media element player faces a rack interior at a first rack length position (as shown in Fig. 1, for instance) in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of enabling easier media element player accessibility/replaceability. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have had the library of Cahlander further comprise a media element player supported on the inner surface of the third panel segment such that the media element player faces the rack interior at the first rack length position as taught/suggested by Brown. The rationale is as follows:

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have had the library of Cahlander further comprise a media element player supported on the inner surface of the third panel segment such that the media element player faces the rack interior at the first rack length position as taught/suggested by Brown since such enables easier media element player accessibility/replaceability.

Pertinent Prior Art

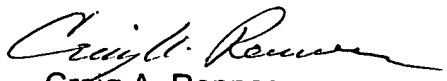
16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. This includes Kakuta et al. (US 5,274,516), Hidano et al. (US 5,442,500), Searle et al. (US 5,781,367), Heinze et al. (US 6,038,099), Woodruff et al. (US 2004/0105187), Goodman et al. (US 2004/0165489), and Dickey et al. (US 2005/0036230), which each individually teaches a rack-mounted storage library comprising a rack having an interior and a length; a media element handling assembly; a first panel segment having an inner surface, the first panel segment being mounted to a first side of the rack at a first rack length position such that the inner surface of the first panel segment faces the rack interior; and a first set of media element housing cells supported on the inner surface of the first panel segment such that the first set of media element housing cells face the rack interior at the first rack length position; wherein the media element handling assembly is operable for moving through the rack interior to the first rack length position in order to manipulate media elements held by the first set of media element housing cells.

Conclusion

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Craig A. Renner whose telephone number is (571) 272-7580. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday 9:00 AM - 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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CAR